VIEWS ON SAFETY

Sail Safe Protecting our Most Valuable Resource - Our People *Semper Safe*

Transforming Safety

Inculcating safety and risk management into all we do in the Navy and Marine Corps means that leaders talk about safety whenever they speak publicly.

The following snippets and sound bytes are intended for use by leaders, speechwriters, and anyone else who wants to further safety by what they say. Please add to it, delete what doesn't work for you, and make it your own.

October 20 02

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➢ **WHY DO WE NEED SAFETY?**

- **Department of the Navy (Navy & Marine Corps) civilians suffered 2.28 lost time injuries per 100 workers in FY 2001 – nearly the same number as in FY 1999 - and we paid out nearly $247 MIL in compensation**

- **The NAVOSH Report Card identifies 224 fatalities from 1990-2001 and despite a five year trend that shows a decrease from 1997 to 2002 in Class "A" mishaps (those involving loss of life or damage that exceeds $1 MIL), the Navy suffered 21 such mishaps in FY02 to the tune of some $625 MIL.**

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➢ **OUR SAFETY CHALLENGE:**

▪ <u>The Navy & Marine Corps' safety challenge is the corporate Navy/Marine Corps' challenge</u>. No matter where an injury or tragedy occurs, the Department of the Navy and our Sailors/Marines/Civilian employees lose

▪ <u>The time has come to "mainstream" safety</u> in the Navy & Marine Corps.   The principles of management control commonly applied to cost, schedule, quality, and productivity are equally applicable to safety – and vice versa

▪ <u>Fully integrate safety and occupational health considerations</u> into research, planning, and acquisition of ships, systems, and equipment

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➢ **ON NAVY & MARINE CORPS SAFETY CULTURE:**

- ▪ **In order for safety to become an integral part of the Navy/Marine Corps work culture, *accountability for safety must become a private as well as a public matter*. Our Sailors/Marines/employees must truly *"own it"* not only for themselves, but also for their fellow Sailors/Marines/co-workers**

- ▪ **When an injury or occupational illness results despite our best prevention efforts, our Sailors, Marines and Civilian employees *lose a part of themselves and we lose a part of them***

- ▪ **Recommending the cancellation or halting an *unsafe* evolution is not only an option - *it is an obligation* - of *every* military and civilian manager, supervisor and co-worker**

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➢ **WE IN THE NAVY & MARINE CORPS:**

- ▪ <u>**Do not compromise our safety values for cost, schedule or production.**</u>

- ▪ <u>**Will be held accountable for the consequences of our decisions**</u> **that affect the safety and health of our Sailors/Marines, civilian workers, their families, and the communities in which we live, work, and serve.**

- ▪ <u>**Value human life above all else**</u> **and *manage risk accordingly*.**

- ▪ <u>**Relentlessly pursue a safe and healthful workplace**</u> **in which *all Sailors/Marines/employees go home every day in the same (or improved) condition as they were in when they reported to work*.**

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> ## WE IN THE NAVY & MARINE CORPS:

- *"Take care of our own."* **That means civilian as well as uniformed personnel and must by definition include not only words, but also demonstrated actions and follow-through to protect our most valuable resource – our people – from enemy fire and friendly fire. *Think of injuries and occupational illnesses as just another form of friendly fire*.**

- **Enable managers, supervisors and employees to make informed risk decisions. We strive not only to measure safety performance, but also to *understand what the performance measures mean* (how and why it happened) and translate that performance into an easily understandable and defendable recommendation for improvement (what we should do about it).**

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➢ **WE IN THE NAVY & MARINE CORPS ASPIRE TO:**

- **Share our best practices and lessons learned throughout the Navy and Marine Corps to prevent recurrence elsewhere within the Department of the Navy, as well as to achieve continuous improvement and become a learning organization.**

- **Measure *both leading and lagging* safety and occupational health indicators and *consistently follow-through* to implement recommendations for improvement.**

- **Develop *long-term* acquisition system or specification improvements for every *short-term* fix we implement**

- **Implement safety and health recommendations *in a timely manner and without deviation.***

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➢ **WE IN THE NAVY & MARINE CORPS ASPIRE TO:**

▪ <u>Acquire safer ships, systems and equipment</u>. However, we need to look beyond the obvious and dig deep for the root-cause in order to become an effective learning organization. For example, an injury does not occur simply because an employee failed to use prescribed personal protective equipment, but on a deeper level, it occurred because the system design was sufficiently unsafe as to require personal protection to be used in the first place.

▪ <u>Improve readiness by ensuring systems are safe by design</u>.

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➢ **ON NAVY & MARINE CORPS SAFETY VALUES:**

- **Safety is a value*, not* merely a priority or a goal**

- **Safety is a *line management* responsibility**

- **Commitment to safety *empowers* our Sailors/Marines and employees to advance the Navy/Marine Corps' strategic business initiatives and enhances mission accomplishment**

- **All civilian and uniformed personnel in the Navy/Marine Corps are *critical components* of overall force readiness. Every dollar spent as a result of occupational injuries and illnesses is a dollar *that could be spent on other military priorities***

- **Mishap prevention is an investment in protecting and promoting quality of service and the heath and well being of our Sailors/Marines/employees**

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- ➢ **ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME...**

    - ▪ <u>To provide leadership and apply technology and resources</u> necessary to effectively and efficiently prevent mishaps and protect personnel and material assets?

    - ▪ <u>To do a little preventive work</u>? People are a lot more important than equipment. Don't they deserve the same preventative vice corrective approach?

    - ▪ We directed the uniformed guards outside every one of our bases and facilities conducting vehicle pass and ID checks as one enters the gate <u>to check for Seat Belts</u>? Private Motor Vehicle Mishaps are the NUMBER ONE KILLER of Sailors and Marines.

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